

Dear Readers,

I am excited to share with you the first issue of the sixth volume of the *Berkeley Undergraduate Journal of Classics*. The past year has been a trying one for the Berkeley community, and now more than ever we have seen the impact words make. Our language has the power to shift our opinions, to challenge us critically, and to problematize the things we think we understand. These same principles extend to and encourage our study of the ancient world and its classical civilizations. As hackneyed as it may seem, I think it is crucial to remember that we can learn a lot from history, and the lessons we gain through studying the classical world still hold prevalence today.

Here at the BUJC, we sought to produce a publication dedicated to innovative and provocative ideas about religion, politics, and philosophy in the classical world. This year saw a high volume of submissions, which provided us with the amazing opportunity to read many unique and thought-provoking pieces. While I wish we could share more of the work submitted, I am honored to present these five outstanding papers with our fellow classical enthusiasts. Which leads to many thanks to our returning staff member, Kira Coyne, and new member, Katrina Uy, for dedicating their time and energy to the journal. We were a small but mighty team this semester, and we would not have been able to do it without them.

Finally, we wish to dedicate this issue to our predecessors, Olivia Graves and Julia Lyter. Under their direction the journal flourished and we hope to continue to uphold the standards of excellence and scholarship that they established. We hope that you enjoy this issue as much as we do.

Fiat Lux,

Katie Berlin
Editor-in-Chief

Robert Higgs
Managing Editor